

GENERAL NOTES

Cooper's Hawk Takes Crippled Coot.—On January 15, 1942, I was traveling through the Atchafalaya River Swamp in south-central Louisiana with Conservation Agents Levert Bird and Charles Olana. The purpose of the trip was to collect a few birds that occur in the interior of the southern swamps for the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit at the Pennsylvania State College.

While we were crossing Lake Natchez in Iberville Parish, a flock of Coots (*Fulica americana*) flew past the boat, and I attempted to collect two of them. The first fell dead in the water not far away, and the second began to topple and fall, badly crippled. When the Coot was thirty or forty feet from the water and about fifty yards from the edge of the lake, a Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*) dashed from its perch in the cypress-tupelo swamp on the lake shore, seized the crippled Coot, and returned to the woods with its prey.

All this happened so quickly that we could not realize for a few seconds what had taken place. By that time, all that could be seen of the potential museum skin was an occasional feather floating down to the surface of the lake.—RUSSELL T. NORRIS, *Preston Laboratory, Box 847, Butler, Pennsylvania.*

Purple Sandpiper in Indiana.—At about 9 A.M. on December 13, 1941, while unsuccessfully hunting ducks on Lake Wawasee, near Syracuse, Indiana, I saw a Purple Sandpiper (*Arquatella maritima*). No glasses were available, but I observed the bird at my leisure at a distance of about 20 feet. The characteristics observed at the time include: a dark sandpiper with body about as large as a Killdeer, but with shorter tail; bill of moderate length, straight or very slightly decurved; light eye-ring; dark breast and flanks, but light belly; and a definite slate-blue cast to the feathers of the back. In flight, the dark central tail-feathers contrasting with lighter ones on the sides, the dark rump, and the light bar across the wings, were noticed. A sharp drop in temperature during the preceding night had covered most of the shoreward parts of the lake with ice, and frozen the adjacent beaches. But east from Vawter's Park to the point, on the south shore of the lake, there were several hundred feet of open water near shore, and it was on the adjacent beach that the bird was feeding. Though a new bird to me, there seems no doubt of the identification, which I checked a few hours later with Peterson's "Field Guide." It may be observed that almost any sandpiper, at that time of year, would be a noteworthy find. According to Mr. Palmer D. Skaar of Indianapolis, this is the first record of the Purple Sandpiper for Indiana.—W. E. RICKER, *Department of Zoology, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.*

Flickers Dusting.—I have seen Flickers (*Colaptes auratus*) of both sexes take dust baths in the beds of flower gardens in suburban Baltimore. A female, already so engaged when first noticed, leaned forward on her breast with ruffled plumage and squirmed from side to side during the few moments more that her dusting lasted. A male squatted in a depression about a foot across and, with plumage expanded, dragged himself about on his belly, clearly by the use of his feet. Several times he dipped forward and dusted his breast, and he also rubbed both cheeks in the shallow dust. His bath lasted some seconds. The dates were, respectively, May 19, 1941, and August 1, 1942.—HERVEY BRACKBILL, *3201 Carlisle Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland.*

Slow Recovery of Ohio Phoebes from the 1940 Storm.—During the early part of 1940 severe storms struck the southeastern states from Texas to Florida. At that time much was written concerning the loss of life of several species of birds but little was reported about the Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*).